



United States Department of Agriculture

Update 4

Mount Rogers National Recreation Area (NRA) East End Trail System Realignment George Washington and Jefferson National Forests

Many thanks to the 55+ folks who devoted a beautiful sunny Saturday morning on May 30 to attend our first trails workshop! I know everybody would rather have spent that time outdoors on the trails, but I found the time very valuable and appreciate all the information that people were willing to share. I hope everyone who attended felt it was time well spent. If you were not able to attend that workshop, there will be others scheduled over the next several months.

We are reviewing the written notes and the route suggestions you drew on the maps to come up with ideas for future field trips. Those suggestions make it clear that we have a lot to look at together.

Some comments about the workshop map:

People expressed concern that it was a different map than the first one posted on this realignment page. One difference is that the area depicted extends from SR 16 in Smyth and Grayson Counties east to the New River, which is the “East End” we are working with. The other difference is that the non-system trails that the Forest Service knows of, and has located with GPS coordinates, are depicted in red on the workshop map. As this process moves along, you will indeed see new information included on these working maps. We will always put a date on them, so you can refer to previous draft maps. The base map from May 30 is now available on the realignment page. Please remember that a working map is just that—information, but not a decision. We will work to produce an easier to read workshop map with a larger scale prior to our next meeting.

I appreciate your comments and questions, and your commitment to work with the Forest Service toward a great trail system on Mount Rogers NRA!

BETH MERZ

Area Ranger, Mount Rogers National Recreation Area



Forest Service

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